

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard have been granted approval for manufacture of Potable Alcohol, subject to the condition that only Rum would be manufactured out of molasses as a raw material. The other products would be manufactured out of non-molasses raw materials. The approvals are also subject to the condition that no fresh capacity for manufacture of potable liquor shall be allowed and that the existing licensed capacity of the joint venture company will be limited to the licensed capacity of the Indian partner, i.e., the proposed joint venture shall use the existing valid licence of the Indian partner (s) for the manufacture of the proposed products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

3133. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported in the country during the last year;

(b) the quantity of gold in the Government stock;

(c) whether the Government have lent gold to any firm for making jewellery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling Activities At Border

3134. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALI DAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling activities on large scale in some districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, whether some foreign fishermen come there in their boats for smuggling particularly in Bhuj area;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to plug the smuggling activities in the State; and

(d) the amount of articles seized by the Government during the last three years in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling Heroin

3135. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become the gateway of smuggling heroin, hashish and other narcotics to western destinations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of cases that have come to the light during the last three years wherein heroin was either caught while smuggling in/out of the country and the persons at the back of this trade; and

(d) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) India continues to face trans-~~it~~ trafficking in narcotic drugs from across the borders, especially in heroin and hashish, generally destined to the western destinations.

(b) Government has taken necessary legislative and administrative measures including the following to combat drug trafficking :-

i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

ii) The dedicated narcotic cells are operational in Police and the Customs and Central Excise formations in the border States.

iii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.

iv) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

v) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

vi) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

vii) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

viii) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

ix) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

x) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(c) and (d) As per information available, details of number of cases and persons arrested in connection with heroin smuggling during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below:-

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Persons Arrested
1994	51	49
1995	69	58
1996	53	56

Stringent action against the offenders is initiated in accordance with the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

Import of Urea

3136. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has frozen 2.5 million dollars meant for payment of urea purchased from Libya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the frozen amount released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. MMTC had opened a Letter of Credit (L/C) for US\$ 2.5 million in favour of National Oil Company, Libya for purchase of 13,817 MTs of urea, through Indian Overseas Bank. The L/C was confirmed by the Union Bank of Switzerland. Indian Overseas Bank as per instructions of Union Bank of Switzerland, remitted the amounts through Chase Manhattan Bank, New York who froze this amount. The entire quantity of urea was received by MMTC in April '96. Indian Overseas Bank has taken up the release of above money to the National Oil Company, Libya through the Ministry of External Affairs. MMTC has no further liability or role in this transaction.

Employment Generation

3137. SHRI K. PARASURMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked the R.B.I. to suggest various measures for employment generation and poverty alleviation schemes including adequate credit flow to rural and priority sectors;

(b) whether the RBI has since given its concrete suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions of the RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Banks have been implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes formulated by the Govt. of India. These schemes include Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).

The performance of public sector banks in these schemes for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Number in Lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Year	Physical Target	Physical Achievement	
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	1993-94	25.69	25.38	
	1994-95	21.15	21.12	
	1995-96	N.A.	15.82	
		Target	Sanctioned	Disbursement
Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME)	1993-94	1.23	1.83	1.49
	1994-95	1.20	1.44	1.18
	1995-96	1.17	1.18	0.93
Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)	*1993-94	0.42	0.32	0.21
	1994-95	2.20	1.94	1.11
(*Oct. 93 to March 94)	1995-96	3.21	2.94	1.63

NOTE : Under IRDP, the number mentioned under physical targets and achievement denote the number of families.